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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

ORIGIN Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Bitolj KNOJ Battalion, 9 Company

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INFO.

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1. Captain Joze Lipovnik is Commanding Officer of 9 Company of the Bitolj KNOJ Border Guard Battalion. Company headquarters are in Zivojna.

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2. There are three platoons in 9 Company, headquarters of 1 platoon being at Kremenica. The three squads of 1 platoon are located in blockhouses at Lazec, Medzitly and Kremenica.
3. Each squad is composed of one NCO and 12 men. Armament includes 4 rifles, 8 Soviet model automatics (sic) and an issue of two hand grenades per man. Communication between platoons and with company headquarters is by telephone.
4. Food is better and more abundant than that served to the regular Army, with 900 grams of bread daily as compared to the Army's 800.
5. Each border block house has three guard posts, one in front of the block house and two on the border. Guards stand six-hour duty tours during the day, but during the night they stand no formal guard duty and do no patrolling. Instead, the men are stationed in ambush, 300-400 meters behind the border. There are two men per ambush, on duty for four hours at a time. Border crossers are not halted at night, but immediately fired upon instead. However, border crossing is very simple because the ambushes cover only a small part of the border.
6. The proportion of Communists in the KNOJ units in this area is reportedly about one out of three, despite careful screening. Non-Communists are reportedly lacking in enthusiasm for their duties and are discriminated against by Party members.

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